

SECTION 8.

NONCONFORMING LOTS, USES, STRUCTURES AND PARKING; EXEMPTIONS

8.1 Nonconforming Lots

8.1.1 Continuation of Existing LOT – The requirements of Section 6 of “The Zoning Act” Chapter 40A of the General Laws, as amended, shall apply.

8.1.2 Changes to Unimproved LOTS – Any unimproved LOT which complied with the minimum area, FRONTAGE, LOT width, yard and depth requirements, if any, in effect at the time the boundaries of the LOT were defined by recorded deed or plan, may be built upon for single FAMILY, or where permitted two-FAMILY, residential USE, notwithstanding the adoption of new or increased LOT area, FRONTAGE, LOT width, yard or depth requirements, provided that:

8.1.2.1 At the time of the adoption of such new or increased requirements such LOT was held, and has continued to be held, in ownership separate from that of adjoining land; and

8.1.2.2 The LOT had at least 5,000 square feet of area and 50 feet of FRONTAGE at the time the boundaries of the LOT were defined; and

8.1.2.3 Any proposed STRUCTURE is situated on an unimproved LOT so as to conform with the minimum yard requirements, if any, in effect at the time the boundaries of such LOT were defined. In the case where no minimum yard requirements were in effect at the time the boundaries of such LOT were defined, the minimum front yard shall be 20 feet and the minimum side and rear yards shall be 10 feet.

8.1.3 Replacement of Single- and Two-Family Dwellings on Nonconforming Lots – A STRUCTURE in single family residential USE on a nonconforming LOT may be razed and rebuilt for single family residential USE; and a STRUCTURE in two-family residential USE on a nonconforming LOT may be razed and rebuilt for two-family residential USE; in both

cases subject to the following conditions and limitations:

8.1.3.1 The replacement STRUCTURE shall not exceed the FLOOR AREA RATIO on the LOT of the STRUCTURE that existed on the LOT before it was razed or damaged.

8.1.3.2 The replacement STRUCTURE shall meet all minimum yard and maximum height requirements of this Bylaw.

8.1.3.3 In the absence of architectural and plot plans for the existing structure to be razed, the FLOOR AREA RATIO shall be determined by using the information on record at the Town of Acton Assessor's office.

8.1.3.4 Additions to the replacement STRUCTURE may be made after two years following the date of initial occupancy of the replacement STRUCTURE, if otherwise permissible and subject to any permits and special permits that may be required.

8.1.4 Extensions, alterations or changes of Single- and Two-Family Dwellings on Nonconforming Lots – One or more extensions, alterations or changes to a single or two-family residential STRUCTURE on a nonconforming LOT shall be deemed not to increase any nonconformity and shall not require special permits under Section 8.1.5, provided that such extensions, alterations or changes comply with all applicable yard requirements and in total do not increase the size of the STRUCTURE by more than 15 percent of the GROSS FLOOR AREA in existence on April 1, 2012 or the date that LOT became nonconforming, whichever is later.

8.1.5 In all other cases, the Board of Appeals may, by special permit, allow such reconstruction of, or extension, alteration or change to a single or two-family residential STRUCTURE on a nonconforming LOT, where it determines either that the proposed modification does not increase the nonconformity or, if the proposed modification does increase the nonconformity, it will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing STRUCTURE on the nonconforming LOT.